

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 15, 2020  
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council held and conducted via Zoom in conformity with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-154 (COVID-19), on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, Scott Gray, James Gruesbeck, Clark Hubbard and Rick Koppleberger. Staff present were City Manager Jamey Conn and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Councilperson Attorney Jefferson Arnold.

Audience in attendance via Zoom was Sean Beckman, Garrett Smith, Ryan Mills, Riley Vernon and Lydia Davenport.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of September 1, 2020. Motion carried.**

**Mayor Schafer asked for Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda; there were none. Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the Agenda including the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. Students Garrett Smith, Riley Vernon, Lydia Davenport and Jonathan Crawford introduced themselves as being in attendance for Mrs. Vandeweghe's class. Mayor Schafer welcomed them.

**Consent Agenda**

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to approve the consent agenda; items as listed:**

- **Ithaca Unit Report for August 2020.**
- **City Manager report which included updates and information on the Fire Authority, Transportation Authority, Election tent, vehicle bids, meeting with Rowe on engineering for watermain projects, Clare City Manager, AYSO soccer season and the request of Four 7 for street closure.**
- **Claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #46827-46863 and Payroll Checks #15939-15948, DD1670-DD1679, EFT #1163-1167 as listed in the Check Register Book.**
- **Correspondence received: Updated Board and Commission Roster**

**Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: (7) Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer**

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**Committee Reports**

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell reported the Chamber of commerce met and are having discussions on its financial status and affect COVID is having on membership and events. The Chamber is looking into new sponsorships, and fundraising. It may also look into using some of its reserves for this year.

**City Manager Comments**

City Manager Conn reported on the search for a tent for the election. We will not be able to use Rent Rite as they do not rent during the late fall season. He has found a company in Lansing and the price will be around \$500-\$600. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell shared that the Center for Tech and Civic Life as announced a grant of \$250 Million for local municipalities for the upcoming election. The grant award could be \$5,000 and can be used for any COVID PPE, additional election workers, equipment, supplies, etc. She has applied for the grant. City Manager Conn updated Council that the First Responder Hazard Pay program grant awards should be announced by week end with funds next week. Fandell added that Treasurer is currently reviewing over 1,300 grant applications between the two grants applied for.

City Manager Conn reported he met with outgoing City Manager Ken Hibl and incoming City Manager Jeremy Howard. He looks forward to a good continued working relationship.

The Fire Authority Committee has selected the name for the new authority: Gratiot Emergency Services Authority.

**New Business**

Clerk-Treasurer Fandell requested that Trick-or-Treat hours be addressed. The local Clerks are looking for direction due to COVID. St. Louis is meeting today also and Alma meets next week. City Manager Conn recommended that since it is a national holiday, that we set the normal hours and let the residence decide if they participate or not by turning their porch lights on.

**Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to set Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours on October 31, 2020 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Motion carried.**

City Manager Conn reported the vehicle bids were opened and sixteen bids were received among the four vehicles. All bids met the minimum requirement except for the 2003 Chevrolet 1500, but after consideration, we may have overestimated that vehicle. Overall, in total, the bids were greater than the totaled minimums. He recommends awarding the bids to the highest bidders for all vehicles.

**Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to award the bids to the highest bidder as listed: 2008 Jeep (VIN #\*5019) to Sidney Hull for \$8,950.00, 1984 Ford F-350 (VIN#\*1084) to Bob Weburg for \$1,505.00, 2000 Chevrolet Pickup 1500 (VIN# \*4122) to Joe Sherwood for \$1,000.00 and the 2003 Chevrolet Pickup 1500 (VIN# \*4660) to Joe Sherwood for \$1,000.00. Motion carried.**

Councilperson Gruesbeck presented names received from the nominating committee to be placed on the Senior Activity Building Board election ballot. Those persons are Roger Cook and Diane Yonker.

**Moved by Gruesbeck, second by Baublitz to approve the Nominating Committee's names of Roger Cook and Diane Yonker to be placed on the ballot for the Senior Activity Building Board. Motion carried.**

City Manager Conn presented a quote from Central Asphalt Inc for the current budgeted street projects and additional unbudgeted patches. They can do the paving October 13-17, 2020. He also would like to add the pulverizing and grading of Croswell Road from Center to South Street as it is in deteriorating condition. A formal quote has not been received, but a verbal estimate of \$3,000-\$3,500 was received.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to approve Proposal Bid Number 20-0352 of Central Asphalt Inc for three inches (3") thick 2-layer paving in the amount of \$196,212.50 and additional street patches in the amount of \$3,408.90 and authorize the additional pulverization and grading of Croswell Road from Center to South Street in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. Motion carried.**

Ryan Mills, of the Four 7, requested the street closure of S. Pine River Street from the alley to Newark Street on September 26, 2020 from 4:00pm to 1:00am on September 27, 2020 to hold a Cornhole Tournament event. No City services will be required.

**Moved by Gray, second by Andrew to approve the request of Ryan Mills, owner of the Four 7, to close S. Pine River Street from the alley to Newark Street on September 26, 2020 from 4:00pm to 1:00am on September 27, 2020 to hold a Cornhole Tournament event. Motion carried.**

#### **Old Business**

Sean Beckman of Rowe PSC, thanked the City Council for the award of the services for the watermain projects. A kickoff meeting is being held tomorrow with Jamey, Bob and Barb. The surveyors are in the City getting started. He will also be delivering a full size set of drawings of the Newark Street project to Bob at the meeting as well.

City Manager Conn updated the Council on the memorial for Bob Crist. It will be on September 26, 2020 in McNabb Park instead of the Presbyterian Church due to the amount of people expected to attend. They will have people remain in their vehicles and Barden's will be assisting with the service.

#### **Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

Mayor Schafer asked for any additional business to come before the Council. None was offered.

**Moved by Andrew, second by Baublitz to adjourn. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

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Barbara Fandell, City Clerk-Treasurer